

## MAHER AND SHARKEY FAKE IT

## REFEREE STOPS THEIR BOUT IN THE THIRD ROUND.

Arrested and Put Under Bonds to Keep the Peace, the Irish Pugilists Take No Chances, Though They Get Their Money First—Big Crowd Disappointed.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—Peter Maher and Thomas Sharkey indulged in a fake glove contest here to-night at the Industrial A. C., which was stopped in the third round by Referee W. H. Rocap, who decided that the men were not fighting on the level, but were simply going through the motions in order to hoodwink the big crowd that had paid to see them in what was expected to be an exciting mix-up.

Not a single blow was landed by either man, both slapping each other with open hands while the spectators howled in derision. The men had been arrested early in the evening on a warrant charging them with a contemplated breach of the peace, and were put under \$5,000 bonds as a guarantee that they would not break the law in any manner.

Neither Sharkey nor Maher made any attempt to conceal the fact that they were not boxing for keeps. As soon as they put up their hands it was immediately apparent to the spectators that they were up against a fake. From that on until Referee Rocap stopped the farce there was a continuous chorus of cat calls and cries of "Fake" "Take them off" and so on.

In the hubbub which followed Sharkey endeavored to address the spectators, but he could not be heard ten feet from the ring side. The men undoubtedly dreaded the outcome of legal proceedings which had been brought against them and were really afraid to take any chances. That there was a distinct understanding between them before the bout began there can be no doubt, for they insisted upon getting their share of the gate money—70 per cent. of the gross—before they went into the ring. But for this it is not unlikely the money would have been withheld from them for the reason that there was a clause in the contract which provided that in the event of a fake their money was to be held back. After the bout some of the enraged spectators reaped what little satisfaction they could out of the chairs and benches. The police cleared the building.

Sporting men came floating into town early. They hailed from New York, Baltimore, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Chicago. Their arrival stirred up the interest to a marked degree so that there was some betting after all, with Sharkey a 5 to 1 favorite. Though Maher had trained quite faithfully at the Central Athletic Club for three weeks and looked to be in proper shape for the mix-up, he was comparatively few supporters. It was conceded that Maher's heart had been found wanting on several previous occasions.

Sharkey, who had been in the ring for a long time, was the probable winner because of his splendid physique, together with his experience in fights with all of the best heavyweights. Though Sharkey had been beaten by Ruhlman and Fitzsimmons, his friends did not think that the sailor would in any way show the effects of these setbacks. Sharkey had indulged in real pugilistic but kept on slapping each other until Referee Rocap stepped between them and put an end to the affair, saying that he did not care to officiate longer, as the men were not boxing on the level.

Third Round—When they came up the men were chatting pleasantly. They showed no signs of an angry real pugilistic but kept on slapping each other until Referee Rocap stepped between them and put an end to the affair, saying that he did not care to officiate longer, as the men were not boxing on the level.

In fact he had pronounced a slugging by some critics, so that the impression prevailed that if he and Maher mixed it up on the level there would be a punching match of such an exciting nature that the people would make a good thing of it.

But then again there was a rumor that the Irishmen might "go easy," especially as there was to be no decision, and in that way pocket a good lump of cash without without being hurt in the way of ready to see an affair of this kind pointed to the fact that Maher and Sharkey have been intimate friends for years and that by a mutual agreement each, for a long time, refrained from challenging the other.

When Sharkey secured a match with James J. Jeffries recently, there was no idea that the sailor would meet Maher in the ring. In fact, nobody believed that Maher would ever enter the ring again. But with hurried preparations the match between Maher and Sharkey was arranged for a long time in this city without police interference. In other words it looked very much as if Maher and Sharkey were about to come together for six rounds with plenty of money in sight for them.

So well was this faked bout that there were indications of a large crowd at the building where the fight took place. The management predicted a crowded house when the fight was set. The fighters rested easily all day. Maher took a short walk with his veteran trainer, Peter Lowry, and told all of his friends that he was confident of victory in the ring.

"I believe I have a chance not only to beat Sharkey," said Peter, "but also to whip Jeffries for the championship of the world. When I fight Sharkey, I will show New York I had him on the run when the police interfered. In that battle Sharkey's blows never hurt me, though I admit that he secured a victory. But it was partially due to a slip. I've trained hard and if I win, I'll go after Jeffries for the latter's proposed fight with Sharkey. I'll go up in one night and show the world I'm a champion."

Sharkey held an informal reception at Green's Hotel all day. He was surrounded by a large crowd of admirers. The sailor looked big and powerful, and Dave Sullivan, who has helped to train him, stated that Tom was sharper than at any previous time in his boxing career.

"I do not put Maher and Sharkey in the line of the champion, but I think they are a case of money with me. I've got a good amount with Jeffries and a defeat would mean more to me than a victory. I have seen Maher and Sharkey in the ring before. I know they are a good team. I have seen them in the ring before. I know they are a good team. I have seen them in the ring before. I know they are a good team."

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## NEWS OF THE WHEELMEN.

## Old-Time Riders and Tradesmen Organize for the Good of the Sport.

A meeting of much interest and importance to the cycling fraternity was held on Thursday night at the Grand Union Hotel. The call for the meeting was sent out by Ritchie G. Betts, one of the organizers of the Manhattan Bicycle Club and now the editor of the *Bicycling World*. The news of the meeting was not so much abroad and those invited to attend were all of the class that might be called veterans. Some of the real old-timers who are now in the trade were among those invited and the result was remarkable.

Among those present were "Pop" W. M. Wheeler, who was Treasurer of the L. A. W. in the early 80's and is now with the A. B. C. Alexander Schwabach, who was the first man arrested in Brooklyn for riding a bicycle, along back in 1879, Elliott Mason, a charter member of the L. A. W., and Alex. E. Ferguson, another charter member of the League. Theodore F. Merceles, Associate President of the American Bicycle Company, C. E. Walker, also of the A. B. C., E. J. Willis, E. Ferguson, who imported the first diamond frame into America, George W. Shannon and others almost as widely known were among those who attended. It was a genuine surprise to see such men on hand to declare themselves riders and willing to give a hand at organizing a new club.

The following excerpts from the call issued for the meeting will give an idea of the sentiment that prompted a large and representative attendance:

"After discussing the subject with several gentlemen, who appreciate conditions past and present, and who are desirous of seeing the good of the sport, it was decided to call a meeting of the old-time riders and tradesmen, who are now in the trade, and who are willing to give a hand at organizing a new club."

In the course of the meeting it was developed that among the well-defined and well-organized organizations of the bicycle world, one between center brake machines and another between motor bicycles, there was a feeling of rivalry. It was decided to call a meeting of the old-time riders and tradesmen, who are now in the trade, and who are willing to give a hand at organizing a new club."

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## WAR OVER BOSTON COMMON.

## EXPERTS AT ODDS ABOUT THE DANGER TO ITS TREES.

Specific Cases of Mismanagement Pointed Out by Samuel Parsons, Jr.—Hot Reply from Supt. Doogue—The Boston Common Society to Protect the Trees.

BOSTON, Jan. 17.—The warning given recently by Samuel Parsons, Jr., of New York that unless Boston takes heed in season she will eventually have a Common without any trees is of far more than local interest in view of the historical associations connected with Boston Common. That warning deserves especial weight in connection with the recent discovery of the loss of the public parks of New York City. In Boston the subject is being discussed with deep interest.

To the average Bostonian the Common, with its quiet and beautifully shaded walks not a stone's throw from the city's busiest streets, has seemed something approaching perfection—to put it moderately. To a small minority, however, it has seemed that something was wrong about it. It has been again and again declared by this minority that the Common was being mismanaged, that the trees were not being properly cared for, and that unless something was done about it the Common would soon suffer great injury.

Finally Mr. Parsons, as an authority in such matters and an outsider, was invited to make a thorough examination. His report just published is not only thorough, but is also accompanied by a map showing the exact location of ninety-five trees which he declared to be inexcusably ill-treated. The soundness of this criticism is, of course, attacked in some quarters, but the trees are there for all Bostonians to examine at their leisure.

Without going into the details of his report it may be said that all natural reasons for the degeneracy of the Common are discussed. The difficulty of growing trees in a great urban park is pointed out in detail. The possibility of successfully overcoming hostile conditions is illustrated by the care of the grave-yard of Trinity Church, New York. Here, Mr. Parsons points out, the conditions are much more than those surrounding Boston Common, and the generally exhausted condition of the soil of the Common may in like manner, he says, be corrected with rich and proper manuring.

But as we consider the trees on the Common, "continues the report, "we realize quickly that there is more the matter with them than can be proved to come from poverty of soil. There are no evidences of the necessary digging about them, especially about the young trees, nor do the older ones seem to have had their roots bound tough bark softened by judicious scraping and washing with whale oil soap, or similar cleansing appliances."

Mr. Parsons' report presents the most curious illustration of defective arboriculture. Here a great branch has evidently intended to stretch itself far over the top of the tree, but has been prevented by the fact that it would be impossible for it to interfere with passersby, it has been unnecessarily lopped off to the ground. "Again, a tree will present the scarred stump of a limb which has evidently been cut off two or three feet from the trunk, and the stump will be left to rot, and decay besides making the tree look unsightly; or an old tree that might have been coaxed to live several years is pruned so that it will shortly give up the ghost entirely."

"It is a misfortune that these trees were not pruned properly during the earlier years of their growth, and that the limbs were allowed to develop in the wrong place and grow so old."

Pruning, however, is not all that is needed. Mr. Parsons finds many of the trees understood by the managers of Boston Common. Decay in many of the trees has been covered up with sheets of tin or iron instead of being skinned fully to a process of careful treatment that not only does not help the tree, but also hides the diseased spot from frequent inspection and treatment.

The iron braces which support great limbs that tend to split the tree apart have been managed in an equally ill-informed manner. In several cases the braces have been allowed to develop in the wrong place and grow so old."

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Pruning, however, is not all that is needed. Mr. Parsons finds many of the trees understood by the managers of Boston Common. Decay in many of the trees has been covered up with sheets of tin or iron instead of being skinned fully to a process of careful treatment that not only does not help the tree, but also hides the diseased spot from frequent inspection and treatment.

The iron braces which support great limbs that tend to split the tree apart have been managed in an equally ill-informed manner. In several cases the braces have been allowed to develop in the wrong place and grow so old."

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